## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

## LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.      (original):  An inkjet ink comprising at least one dye having a heterocyclic ring and a metal ion in an aqueous medium, wherein the ink jet ink further comprises a compound capable of accelerating aggregation of the dye in the aqueous medium.

2.      (original):  The inkjet ink as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dye having a heterocyclic ring and a metal ion is a phthalocyanine dye.

3.      (original):  The inkjet ink as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compound capable of accelerating aggregation of the dye in the aqueous medium is at least one compound selected from heterocyclic or chain-like low molecular weight compounds that may be substituted with a hydroxy group, an amino group or a thiazolyl group.
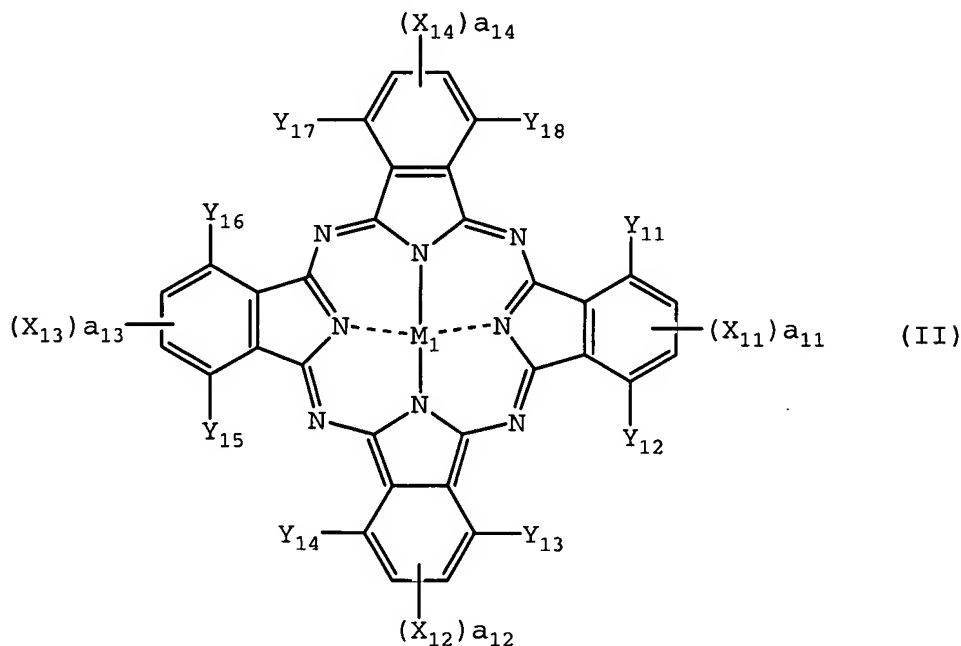
4.      (currently amended):  The inkjet ink as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dye having a heterocyclic ring and a metal ion is at least one of dyes represented by formula (I) shown below[[.]]:

$$(I)$$
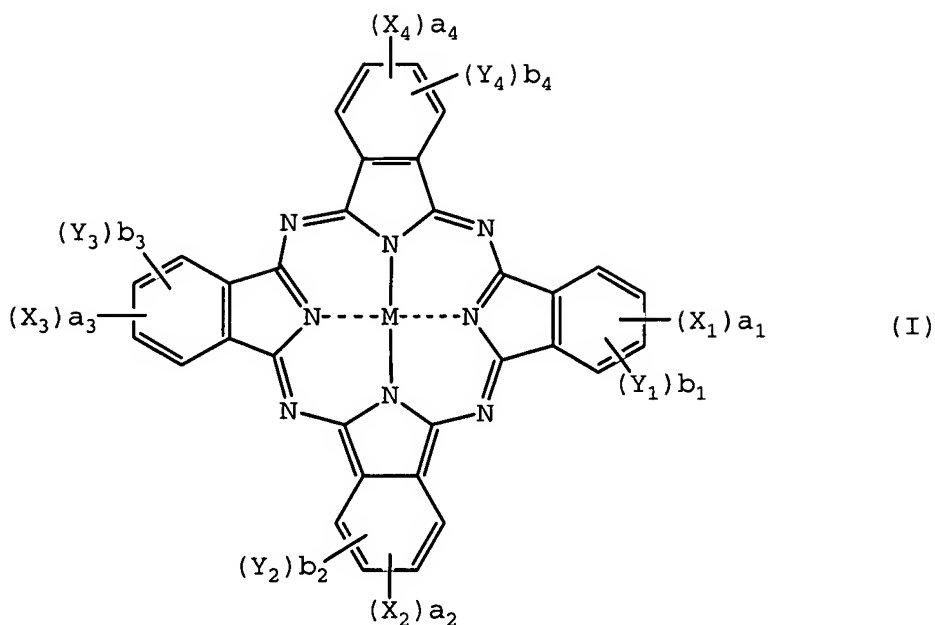
wherein, $X_1$, $X_2$, $X_3$ and $X_4$ each independently represent $-SO\text{-}Z$, $-SO_2\text{-}Z$, $-SO_2NR_1R_2$, a sulfo group, $-CONR_1R_2$ or $-CO_2R_1$; Z represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; $R_1$ and $R_2$ each independently represent a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; when two or more Zs are present, these may be the same or different from each other; $Y_1$, $Y_2$, $Y_3$ and $Y_4$ each independently represent a monovalent substituent; when two or more of any one of $X_1$s to $X_4$s and $Y_1$s to $Y_4$s are present, these may be the same or different from each other; $a_1$, $a_2$, $a_3$ and $a_4$ and $b_1$, $b_2$, $b_3$ and $b_4$ represent numbers of substituents represented by $X_1$ to $X_4$ and $Y_1$ to $Y_4$, respectively; $a_1$ to $a_4$ each independently represent an integer of from 0 to 4, provided that all of $a_1$ to $a_4$ are not 0 at the same time; $b_1$ to $b_4$ each independently represent an integer of from 0 to 4; and M represents a hydrogen atom, a metal element or an oxide, hydroxide or halide thereof.

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5.      (currently amended):   The inkjet ink as claimed in claim 4, wherein the dye represented by formula (I) is a dye represented by formula (II) shown below[[.]]:



$$(X_{14})a_{14}$$

$$Y_{17} \quad Y_{18}$$

$$Y_{16} \quad N \quad N \quad Y_{11}$$

$$(X_{13})a_{13} \quad N \cdots M_1 \cdots N \quad (X_{11})a_{11} \quad (II)$$

$$Y_{15} \quad N \quad N \quad Y_{12}$$

$$Y_{14} \quad Y_{13}$$

$$(X_{12})a_{12}$$

wherein, $X_{11}$, $X_{12}$, $X_{13}$, $X_{14}$, $Y_{11}$, $Y_{12}$, $Y_{13}$, $Y_{14}$, $Y_{15}$, $Y_{16}$, $Y_{17}$, $Y_{18}$ and $M_1$ have the same meanings as defined for $X_1$ to $X_4$, $Y_1$ to $Y_4$ and M in formula (I), respectively; and $a_{11}$ to $a_{14}$ each independently represent an integer of from 1 or 2.

6.      (new):   The inkjet ink as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compound capable of accelerating aggregation of the dye in the aqueous medium is a compound represented by formula (K) shown below:

$$X\text{-}NH\text{-}C(\text{-}Y)\text{=}Z \qquad (K)$$
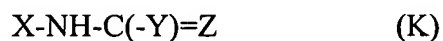
wherein, X represents a hydrogen atom, an amino group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group or a group represented by C(=P)=Q (wherein P represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, an amino group, an alkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, an alkylamino group, an arylamino group, an alkoxy group or an aryloxy group, and Q represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or a substituted nitrogen atom); Y represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, an amino group, an

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alkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, an alkylamino group, an arylamino group, an alkoxy group or an aryloxy group; and Z represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or a substituted nitrogen atom, or any two of X, Y and Z may be combined with each other to form a ring.